

## "AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH" ACTIVITIES

February was African-American History Month, a time designated for officially celebrating the role African Americans played in the history of this nation. Although this month-long observance is over, the editors of this special issue of *CRM* are including the following reports of activities that took place in some of the parks around the country, with the hope that they will stimulate ideas for next year's African-American History Month.

### **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, MO.**

A busy program of music concerts and film screenings at the Old Courthouse rounded out the events. Company A 10th Memorial Cavalry, a recreated troop of Buffalo Soldiers from the Fort Concho Museum in San Angelo, Texas, was featured. Although a special emphasis is placed on African-American contributions to westward expansion and the City of St. Louis during February, most programs on African-American themes are given year-round.

—John Tucker  
803-883-3123

### **Fort Moultrie**

In celebration of Black History Month, an exhibit highlighting the roles of African Americans during the Civil War was on display at the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center on Sullivan's Island during February. The exhibit entitled, *Invisible Confederates—The Role of Black Southerners in the Confederacy*, explores the little-recognized contributions of both slave and free Black Southerners to the Confederate war effort.

Information on the role of African Americans in the Union

army was also exhibited. A five-minute, continually running slide show tells the story of the 54th Massachusetts regiment, one of the first African-American units raised during the Civil War. A diorama depicts their attack on Battery Wagner on Morris Island in July 1863. Educational materials relating to African-American history are available for purchase at both Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter.

The Fort Moultrie Visitor Center is located at 1214 Middle Street on Sullivan's Island and open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission to the visitor center and Fort Moultrie is free. For additional information call 803-883-3123.

### **Boston National Historical Park, Boston, MA**

USS *Mason*, a Destroyer Escort and the only US Navy warship to have an African-American crew during WWII, was built and commissioned in the Charlestown Navy Yard, now part of Boston National Historical Park. The park hosted a reunion of *Mason's* crew in May 1995. An exhibit on the *Mason* and her crew was up for six months in the visitor center and at the USS Constitution Museum, and a scaled-down version of that exhibit was on display in the lobby of the Forbes Building in New York City in February. The spring 1996 issue of *American Legacy*, a Forbes magazine, will have as its lead article, "Mason Comes Home," dealing with the USS *Mason*.

—John Benjamin  
617-242-5643

### **Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Salt Flat, TX**

During February there was an art exhibit depicting Buffalo soldiers. Prints showed the works of artists such as Frederick Remington, Clyde Heron,

Bob Sneed, and Burl Washington. In March there is a planned program on the Buffalo Soldiers to be given by Clarence Wadkins from Fort Larned NHS and Lynn Chelewski from Guadalupe Mountains NP.

—Lynn Chelewski

### **Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Elverson, PA**

African-American History Month program featured a talk on the historic role of African-American workers at Hopewell Furnace and in the local Birdsboro/Berks County, PA area. The speaker was Dr. Joseph Amprey, Dean of Academic Services at Kutztown University.

### **The National Mall, Washington, DC.**

Interpretive programs during February included a program about Ida B. Wells and Billie Holiday, presented at Frederick Douglass Home; "African-American Women: Past, Present, and Future"; and a program about Marion Anderson at a suburban elementary school.

—Gerry Gaumer

### **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Porter, IN**

African-American History Month programs included "Celebrating African Rooted Traditions", a highly interactive program depicting the songs, stories, and games of the African people; "Story of a People," a 45-minute program honoring several African Americans who have overcome slavery, poverty, and prejudice to make significant contributions to American history; and "Celebrate Black History Month," a slide show of national historic sites that recognize the contributions made by African Americans.

—Deanna Ochs  
Mark Bluell